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Sen. Laura Toy's bill to help local municipalities collect money from jail inmates signed by governor

LANSING – A bill sponsored by state Sen. Laura M. Toy, 6th District, allowing local governments to seek reimbursement from jail inmates for the cost of their incarceration has been signed into law by the governor.

“When people break the law, there must be consequences,” Sen. Toy said. “It’s just not right for all taxpayers to bear that burden.”

Senate Bill 208 allows local governments to charge inmates up to \$60 per day or the actual cost of their incarceration, whichever is less. Municipalities also could choose to bill inmates for the cost of unreimbursed medical care provided to them while they are in custody.

As just one example in Toy’s district, the city of Westland pays more than \$600,000 each year to house inmates in its jail facilities. Recovering even 10 percent of this amount might allow the city to hire an additional police officer.

“Having served on the Livonia City Council, as council president and as Livonia city treasurer, I know the expense that local lock-ups represent for our local units of government who are already confronting challenging times,” Sen. Toy said. “This bill is just one more tool that communities can use to help ease the burden so they can continue to provide the type of quality services their residents expect.”

Toy’s bill is Public Act 88 of 2006.

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